

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 19, 2014
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 23, 2014
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 5, 2014
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 28, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2612

Introduced by Assembly Member Dababneh
(Coauthor: Senator Beall)

February 21, 2014

An act to add ~~Sections 14124.28 and~~ *Section* 14129 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2612, as amended, Dababneh. ~~Medi-Cal: substance use disorder treatment. Medi-Cal.~~

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid Program provisions. Existing federal law prohibits federal financial participation for care or services provided to inmates of a public institution and care or services provided to patients in an institution for mental diseases. Existing law establishes the Drug Medi-Cal Treatment Program (Drug Medi-Cal) under which the department is authorized to enter into contracts with counties for various drug treatment services to Medi-Cal recipients, or is required to directly arrange for these services if a county elects not to do so. *institution.*

~~This bill would require the department to submit an application for a specified waiver or waiver amendment necessary to create a process by which federal financial participation may be claimed for stays of 120 days or less in an institution for mental diseases for beneficiaries with a substance use disorder diagnosis.~~

Existing law authorizes the department, subject to federal approval, to create a health home program for enrollees with chronic conditions, as prescribed.

This bill would require the department, in implementing that program, to request a waiver of federal law to authorize the state to claim federal financial participation for health home services provided to individuals, who are otherwise eligible under the health home program and who are state or county inmates in their last 30 days in custody, by a provider or team of providers, as specified, to ensure coordination of care and reduce gaps in care.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (1) The federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, also
- 4 known as health care reform, is designed to ensure every American
- 5 has access to health care. Eligibility for the federal low-income
- 6 health insurance program, which is Medi-Cal in California, was
- 7 expanded to include childless adults earning less than 138 percent
- 8 of the federal poverty level.
- 9 (2) The cost of the Medi-Cal expansion will be fully paid by
- 10 the federal government until 2017, when the federal government
- 11 contribution will decline gradually to 90 percent, where it will
- 12 remain in 2020 and each year thereafter.
- 13 (3) According to research done by the National Health Law
- 14 Program, a large percentage of individuals in county jails, and
- 15 those being released, are uninsured and may be eligible for
- 16 Medi-Cal.
- 17 (4) According to a study published in the American Journal of
- 18 Public Health, many individuals in county jails, and those being
- 19 released, have *higher rates of certain chronic diseases, including*
- 20 *hypertension, diabetes, asthma, and untreated substance use*

1 disorders. *They are also more likely to suffer from a serious mental*
2 *illness.*

3 (5) In implementing health care reform, California expanded
4 ~~insurance benefits for substance use disorder treatment for new~~
5 ~~and existing Medi-Cal beneficiaries.~~ *existing health home pilot*
6 *projects to help acutely ill individuals who frequently seek care in*
7 *emergency rooms through coordinated care and intensive*
8 *intervention.*

9 (6) ~~Placement in residential programs can treat issues associated~~
10 ~~with substance use disorders and thereby reduce costs and~~
11 ~~recidivism associated with individuals in county jails.~~ *a health*
12 *home can help to reduce recidivism associated with untreated*
13 *primary care, mental health, and substance abuse issues, thereby*
14 *reducing county jail and other criminal justice system costs.*

15 (b) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to encourage the
16 ~~use of appropriate residential substance use disorder treatment~~
17 ~~programs for individuals in the criminal justice system.~~ *appropriate*
18 *use of health homes for people in the criminal justice system.*

19 (c) It is further the intent of the Legislature, in order to increase
20 access to primary care, mental health treatment, and substance use
21 disorder treatment for individuals in the criminal justice system,
22 that individuals who are otherwise eligible for Medi-Cal and who
23 are not inmates of a public institution shall be eligible for Medi-Cal
24 benefits. This includes, but is not limited to, individuals in formal
25 or informal diversion or deferred entry of judgment programs;
26 individuals on probation, as defined in Section 1203 of the Penal
27 Code; individuals on parole, as described in Section 3000 of the
28 Penal Code; individuals on postrelease community supervision,
29 as described in Section 3451 of the Penal Code; and individuals
30 on mandatory supervision as defined in clause (ii) of subparagraph
31 (B) of paragraph (5) of subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal
32 Code.

33 ~~SEC. 2. Section 14124.28 is added to the Welfare and~~
34 ~~Institutions Code, to read:~~

35 ~~14124.28. The department shall submit an application for any~~
36 ~~Section 1115 waiver or waiver amendment necessary to create a~~
37 ~~process by which federal financial participation may be claimed~~
38 ~~for stays of 120 days or less in an institution for mental diseases,~~
39 ~~as defined in Section 1396d(i) of Title 42 of the United States~~
40 ~~Code, for beneficiaries with a substance use disorder diagnosis for~~

1 ~~purposes of treating the individual's diagnosed substance use~~
2 ~~disorder.~~

3 ~~SEC. 3.~~

4 *SEC. 2.* Section 14129 is added to the Welfare and Institutions
5 Code, immediately following Section 14128, to read:

6 14129. The department shall, in implementing this article,
7 request a waiver of federal law to authorize the state to claim
8 federal financial participation for health home services provided
9 to individuals, who are otherwise eligible to receive health home
10 services under this article and who are state or county inmates in
11 their last 30 days in custody, by a provider or team of providers,
12 as described in subdivision (c) of Section 14127, to ensure
13 coordination of care and reduce gaps in care. Prerelease health
14 home services shall be limited to services described in Section
15 14127.2 and shall not include health care services.